

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 119910
ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-05 ISO-00 /009 R

66011

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DWELTER

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS

-----066421 110336Z /61

O 110133Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119910

LIMDIS FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SALLY SHELTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT SAN JOSE 02001 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
MANAGUA MAY 9, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2001

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, NI

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER OF NICARAGUA

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN MET PRIVATELY WITH NICARAGUAN
FOREIGN MINISTER QUINTANA DURING PRE INAUGURAL ACTIVITIES MAY 7.
ALSO PRESENT WERE NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR LACAYO AND POLOFF.

2. QUINTANA OPENED CONVERSATION WITH DISCUSSION OF GON
RATIONAL FOR MAY 5 OAS SPECIAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON.
QUINTANA MADE CLEAR THAT GON OBJECTIVE WAS TO LET CARAZO
GOVERNMENT KNOW THAT GON WILL HOLD GOCR RESPONSIBLE FOR
ANY FSLN ATTACKS ORIGINATING IN COSTA RICA EVEN THOUGH THEY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 119910

ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GOCR DOES NOT SPONSOR SANDINISTA
ACTIVITIES HERE. QUINTANA MENTIONED FSLN INDOCTRINATION
AND MILITARY TRAINING CENTERS, ACCEPTING EXISTENCE OF LATTER
AS FACT DESPITE FACIO'S DISCLAIMED.

3. IN GENERAL DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS,

POSSIBILITY OF IAHC VISIT TO NICARAGUA WAS RAISED. QUINTANA STATED THAT GON MIGHT RESPOND FAVORABLY TO IAHC REQUEST TO VISIT NICARAGUA IN NEAR FUTURE, BUT FOR PRESENT HE FEARED A POSSIBLE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION. ASST. SEC. URGED FORMIN TO ISSUE INVITATION NOW TO IAHC TO VISIT NICARAGUA SO THAT PROCESS COULD BEGIN FOR AN EARLY MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DATE TO BE WORKED OUT SST.

SECRETARY CITED EXAMPLES OF IAHC VISITS TO A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WITH NO NEGATIVE EFFECT AND NOTED THAT EVEN CHILEANS ARE NEGOTIATING POSSIBILITY OF INVITATION TO UN HRC. AFTER SOME HESITATION

QUINTANA RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO ASST. SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION, PROMISED TO BRIEF PRESIDENT SOMOZA FULLY, AND NOTED THAT WE COULD WELL RECEIVE "ASPLEASANT SURPRISE" IN THIS REGARD.

4. FORMIN EXPLAINED THAT WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S BLESSING HE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A NUMBER OF OPPOSITION ELEMENTS IN NICARAGUA AND HOPED THAT SOME RESPONSIBLE UNITED CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION CAN BE FORMED. TODMAN STATED THAT ONLY BINDING FORCE AMONG OPPOSITION APPEARED TO BE ANTI-PATHY TO SOMOZA AND SUPPRESSED DOUBT THAT TYPE OF UNITY FORMIN WAS DESCRIBING COULD PROSPER. ASST. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 119910

SECRETARY SPOKE OF NEED FOR A PERIOD IN NICARAGUA DURING WHICH ALL POLITICAL FORCES CAN ORGANIZE THEMSELVES TO LAY BASES FOR THE POLITICAL CHANGES OF THE FUTURE. FORMIN SAID HE APPRECIATED ASST. SECRETARY'S OBSERVATIONS, WHICH HE PROMISED TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT SOMOZA. AMBASSADOR LACAYO LATER PRIVATELY THANKED AMB. TODMAN FOR DISABUSING FOREIGN MINISTER OF IDEA OF VIABILITY OF ANY "OPPOSITION UNITY" WHICH MIGHT RECEIVE BLESSING OF SOMOZA GOVERNMENT.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, HONDURAN VICE FORMIN POLICARPIO CALLEJAS SAID THAT HONDURANS HAD TOLD SOMOZA THAT HE SHOULD FIND SOMEONE ACCEPTABLE TO HIM AND TO THE OPPOSITION TO HEAD UP PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT.

6. IN LATER PRIVATE CONVERSATION, PRESIDENT ODUBER SAID HE IS PREPARING TO RECOMMEND TO SOMOZA THAT SOMOZA CONSIDER A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT WITH QUINTANA AS HEAD. (ODUBER SAYS HE WILL TRAVEL TO NICARAGUA IN A FEW WEEKS.) ODUBER STATED THAT QUINTANA IS A STRONG PERSONALITY WHO WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE OPPOSITION. WEISSMAN

UNQUOTE VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INAUGURATION, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE119910
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DWELTER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780199-0578
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780568/aaaacgeu.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 80108ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2718925
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OF NICARAGUA
TAGS: PGOV, NU, US, OAS, FSLN, (TODMAN, TERENCE A), (QUINTANA VILLANUEVA, JULIO)
To: SAN SALVADOR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/80108ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014